

WEARDALE RAILWAY : NEWS UPDATE :No. 11

24th JANUARY 2009

THE PUSH TOWARDS BISHOP AUCKLAND – LATEST NEWS

- **Trains reach Witton le Wear Crossing :** This last week saw the first ‘train’ over the crossing in 16 years. It was a works movement with the Wickham trolley plus trailer carrying work materials for operations further along the line towards Bishop Auckland. Special arrangements had to be made in cooperation with DCC Highways Department to allow passage over the crossing. Restoring this crossing to allow normal operations is high on the priority list. (G Lord)



Wickham and Trolley on the Witton le Wear Crossing (Photo : D Scott)



Broken Banks, near Escomb – the scene in 2007 (Photo : J Askwithj)

- **Clearing the way to Bishop Auckland :** The subsidence at Broken Banks is being tackled by the rack gang on an urgent basis. As was reported in the last update the new track location and level has been marked out and as you can see from the photos below work is underway to restore the track. It is hoped to run a test ‘train’ before the end of the month. (Photos D Scott)



- **BARS office organisation :** Here is the full staffing list for the Head Office located in the Stanhope Portacabins which serves all three BARS Companies including the Weardale Railway :-

Nicola Wilbraham - Financial Controller

Corina Smith - Management Accountant – P & L , balance sheets , plus handles all incoming mail distribution

Margaret Sadler - Accounts Assistant - Purchase and sales processing

Nicola Raffery - Document Controller

- **Some of our Railway is missing** : A couple of years ago, just to the south of Etherley Viaduct, some thieves managed to make off with several lengths of rail before they were intercepted. The picture on the left below shows the depressing scene uncovered by the track clearing gangs last year. The picture on the right taken at the same scene shows work already underway last week to restore the track. Once this is done and the work at Broken Banks is completed, Bishop Auckland will be accessible to works trains. Photos : D Scott.



- **Namebadges - new order being placed** : Dave Million reports he will soon be placing another order for Weardale Railway namebadges. In line with feedback he has sourced a cheaper supplier and can now supply these for only £3 each (previously £10). The cheaper type are plastic rather than metal, however, they are good quality and now bear the orange Weardale Railway totem. If you would like to order one please let me know along with details of name and job title to be shown. Telephone: 01388-747683 Mobile: 07711-017980 or at david.million@tiscali.co.uk
- **WRT introduces a Child Protection Policy** : For the reasons summarised in the last update ,it is important that all staff and volunteers are aware of the Policy and how it may affect them, so they should contact either David Million (01388 747683/email or myself, Peter Shields, (0191 549 3209/email peter.shields09@googlemail.com) or call into the Control Office at Stanhope station to **obtain a copy of the booklet**. In the future the Trust may well be in the position of applying for some sort of grant/funding and one of the things that these bodies look for is the policies that are in place for things like Child Protection.

FIRST AID TRAINING REMINDER : Weekend of 7 and 14 February – a one day course - we must have more trained volunteers – contact Dave Milion (01388 7476830 or david.million@tiscali.co.uk)

- **Rolling Stock Movements** : A busy week coming up, on Tuesday 27th January it is planned to move out two locomotives belonging to former ECT employees the Class 25 and the Class 73 (73134) at the same time the Class 31 (31452) which was loaned to the Weardale Railway for the Christmas period will be returned to the BARS sister company for Mainline operations. Coming onto the line will be another non operational Class 73 (731042?) which will be used as a source of spares for our existing Class 73. (G Lord)
- **Shell Rail Tanker arriving** : The tanker, previously owned and restored by Alpha Processing Contols (International) Limited of Peterlee (not Newton Aycliffe as previously stated) will be handed over to Weardale Railways at a ceremony next week and transported to the Railway on Wednesday 28th. This is a Trust led project to provide for the transport and storage of water from the R Wear to the Depot for steam locomotives. (A Temple)

We are looking for volunteers to help with some track replacement work this weekend at Broken Banks near Bishop Auckland. If you are available to help on Saturday or Sunday (or both!), please contact Steve Race on 07918-777932

- **Weardale Railway Junior Club** : The club was recently featured In the Northern Echo (Dec 30th) here is a brief excerpt :- Many young boys dream of driving an engine, but one group of youngsters has something even better, a full-sized train set to enjoy. Those who take the five mile train ride on Weardale Railway, in County cc about trains and letting off steam at the same time. The uniformed young volunteers are regarded as the restored heritage line's future. Boys and girls aged between 11 and 15 are being taught the fundamentals of operating the line so they will be ready to take on responsibility when they are older. They stick to a formal training programme covering topics such as track safety and operating procedures and are becoming experts about rolling stock and railway history.
- Led by training officers David Million and Michael Wilkinson, they work with volunteers from Weardale Railway Trust to keep the line running. They control their own fundraising budget, go on educational visits, organise events and help out at model railway exhibitions. Member Jordan Parker, 14, from Stanhope, believes the club is a good advert for responsible teenagers. He said: "It shows that there is a lot of good in young people like us, we give up a lot of time to help the railway, but we get a lot back as well. We learn a lot, but we also have a good time. Trains are really interesting and we love being a part of the railway. Mr Million said: "The Junior Club are the railway's future. The adults are just looking after it for them to take over. They have a tremendous commitment to the railway. They are fantastic."
- **Weardale Railway Club : Crockery and Glassware sale** : The Weardale Railway Junior Club have been donated a large quantity of genuine GNER glassware and crockery for use on the railway and also for fund raising purposes. GNER operated rail services on the East Coast Main Line until December 2007 when the franchise moved to National Express. This glassware and crockery was used on-board GNER services. Items will be made available to Trust members and members of the public at a fund raising event **at Stanhope station on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd February 2009**. Items for sale include:-

Glassware (bearing the GNER crest): - Tall tumblers (£5 each or 4 for £15)
Wine glasses (£7 each or 4 for £20)

Crockery (GNER branded & GNER "blue rim" style): - Cups & saucer set (£2.50 per set)
- Small & large plates (£2 each) - Sugar bowls (£2 each) Rectangle Plates £2 each
Soup bowls (£2 each) - Pasta Bowls (£2 each) - Salt & Pepper sets (£2 each)
Sugar bowls (£2 each) - Milk jugs (£2 each)

Enquiries or advance reservations can be made by contacting the Junior Club on admin@wrjc.org.uk
Proceeds will go to the WRJC and the No 40 Appeal.



WRJC members; From left Jordan Parker, Ben Riley, Jonathan Ravenhall, Jack Ellwood, James Percy, Daniel Brown and Rhyss Emerson
(COURTESY: Northern Echo)



Some of the glassware being offered for sale to raise funds for the Junior Club and the Number 40 Appeal.